

The Aaron Hudson House
Hilltop Road (Church Street)
Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Aaron Hudson House
Hilltop Road (Church Street)
Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Harold A. Crane

Date of Erection: About 1840

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Aaron D. Hudson (Owner 1836-1877)

Present Condition: Original with minor alterations
at rear

Number of Stories: Two and basement

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber
frame, clapboard siding

Interior walls - plaster
and lath on studding

Chimneys - brick built
into inside of gable end
walls

Roof - tin over original
wood shingles

Historical Data:

By a deed of 13 April 1820 Henry Babbit and wife Phebe of the Township of Mendham, Morris County, conveyed to Elias Hudson of the same place for \$187.50 a rectangular one and one-half acre lot on which this house stands, which Hudson with wife, Phebe, conveyed the same to Aaron D. Hudson of the same place for \$310.00 by deed of 1st April 1836.

The last named having sold off the northeast corner part of the lot transferred the remaining acre and the house to Nancy W., wife of John Pitney, of Mendham, for \$3250.00 by his deed of 26 March 1877. In this conveyance, it is described as being in the Village of Mendham having some 103 feet frontage on the west side of "the road leading from Black Horse Tavern in Mendham to the first Presbyterian Church", bounded south by a lot owned by John Stiger (formerly by Ann Wilson), west by the lot of the Roman Catholic Church, north by the Second Presbyterian Parsonage lot. This Mrs. Pitney, widow, sold the .31 acre rear end of her lot to Henry W. Williams on 15 Aug. 1914. She lived in this house and died intestate in April 1916 leaving as her sole heir a daughter Annie C. Pitney of Mendham, who conveyed balance of the property to said Henry W. Williams on 14 October 1920. The executors of the last named conveyed it with lots adjacent on the south and west to Harold A. Crane and wife of the Borough of Mendham, by deed of 21 September 1936, the owners at time of our survey of the house 1939.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Morris County by Cornelius Mc Phillips, H.A.B.S. abstractor

Architectural Analysis:

This house is an example of the later development of the so-called Greek Revival period of design which from 1815 to 1850 spread so remarkably throughout the eastern states, an exotic style inspired by the published drawings of the ancient temples. When executed in frame construction as in this case, and with details of wood moldings in the heavy scale more appropriate to the marble originals, what merit pervades this style belongs

rather to those antiquities.

However, the formal simplicity of perfectly symmetrical composition in latin cross plan in which the two arms are roofed subordinatedly to the long central unit is impressive. Further dignity is given by the monumental four-column front portico two stories high to the pediment. Modern additions to the rear have not spoiled this effect.

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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